

GREENER HOPKINTON

MINUTES

Thursday, May 21, 2009, Local History Room, Hopkinton Town Library

Present: Mary Leadbeater, Susan Covert, Janet Ward, Jack Ruderman, and official new member Chris Aslin

-Minutes of April 15 meeting were approved with one correction: Brian Bickford was not in attendance.

-Mary Leadbeater volunteered to bring Greener Hopkinton's canvas bag sale project to completion. Bags will be sold at Dimond Hill Farm and at the Contoocook's Farmers' Market. Greener Hopkinton is very grateful to Carol Cleary who has overseen this project from its inception.

-Amy O'Brien submitted a report on the progress of the Julie Chapin Memorial Community Garden. Approximately four of the 20 10' x 10' plots have been assigned. Advertising of this opportunity continues through the Concord Monitor, the school newsletters, posters in the Library and elsewhere, and soon on sandwich boards in Hopkinton and Contoocook. GH members are encouraged to have interested gardeners pick up applications at the Town Hall or the Library or via email (amyobrien@comcast.net).

Amy asked that GH decide whether lime and fertilizer should be applied to the Garden prior to planting. Janet will check with Bill Chapin who donated this land to determine whether this should be done or left to individual gardeners.

Susan noted that we should include the phrase "Fee may be waived" on the application form to insure that those who need assistance will be eligible to garden.

-Chris Aslin reported that at a recent GH Energy Subcommittee meeting, it was decided that after reviewing data from GH's energy survey, the subcommittee should next have a meeting with Jim O'Brien, Selectmen's representative, to determine the most appropriate energy upgrade possibilities. Bethann plans to schedule the next subcommittee meeting as soon as possible.

Jack agreed to keep GH informed of grant deadlines and said that we have not missed any opportunities to date. Chris has agreed to attend Library Trustee energy subcommittee meetings. Susan recommended that future energy subcommittee meetings include Jim O'Brien and School Board member David Luneau.

Jack noted that it was important to consider employing an energy consultant to get an official energy audit complete with cost estimates to be included in any future grant applications. Jack explained that even though this would involve some expense upfront,

once grant monies become available, it could result in winning grant awards for significant energy saving retrofitting.

-Local Energy Solutions, a one day conference for Local Energy Committees, Municipalities and Schools, will be held on June 20 at the Grappone Center in Concord. Bethann, Janet and Chris plan to attend. Anyone interested in attending can check www.carboncoalition.org/Conference/agenda.php for information.

-Suggestions for future speakers for our Sustainable Speaker Series included Ruth Smith and Patrick Miller. Janet agreed to check with Bethann about a possible topic for Ruth Smith and to contact Professor Miller, Research Associate Professor at UNH and a speaker for the Carbon Coalition to ask if he can speak in the fall concerning the state of current legislation and how well it addresses concerns about global climate change. Susan will discuss the possibility of having this presentation at the High School and collaborating with the High School to fold Dr. Miller's presentation into the curriculum.

-GH members present voted to encourage Bethann to follow up on the 350.org support idea of bell ringing at 3:50.

-The Committee directed Janet to check with Jim O'Brien about what sort of fertilizer and herbicides are used by the Town of Hopkinton.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, June 25, 6:30 PM, Community Room, Library.